



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

March 25, 2021

The Honorable Chris Paddie  
Chairman, Texas House Committee on State Affairs  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Paddie,

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for Rep. Capriglione's House Bill 3687 regarding transparency efforts for city lobbying contracts. The City of Houston strongly supports HB 3687 and applauds the effort to dispel misinformation regarding lobbying.

In the legislation, the bill calls for seven items regarding lobby contracts and details surrounding the amounts and dates. As we sit here, the City of Houston is already in compliance with this legislation as we post a decade worth of lobbying contracts on our Government Relations website, as well as a large amount of related information.

When using common internet search engines, entering "City of Houston lobby contracts" lists my Government Relations page as the first result. At the very beginning of our page, we highlight the date and vote by which City Council approved our state lobby contract, the name of the firm receiving the contract, and the amount and term of the contract.

In House Bill 3678, item 7 requests that the "legislative agenda of the political subdivision" be listed, which we interpret to mean the Legislative Principles our City Council passes before each session. We post that information also on the Government Relations website under our "2021 Session" link as well as testimony from the City of Houston submitted during session, making the connection between the principles and actions of the Government Relations team.

Under Mayor Turner, the City of Houston tries to be as transparent as possible. This is especially true regarding our work at the State Legislature in order to help residents understand the tremendous work our delegation does on our behalf. After Sine Die, the Government Relations Team puts together an interactive website to summarize the work of our team and outline the members of our Lobby team (and subcontractors) who work with members of the Legislature.

We hope Members explore our site and support the transparency measures of House Bill 3687.

Sincerely,

Bill Kelly,  
Director of Government Relations  
[www.houstontx.gov/govtrelations](http://www.houstontx.gov/govtrelations)